(b) and (c) The State Bank of India have reported that a fraud was perpetrated by a Non-Resident Indian Shri Lal Budharani who came into possession of blank draft forms collected by an unauthorised person from the bank's Circle Stationery Department, Faridabad. Accounts were opened by him at various branches and drafts aggregating Rs. 1.72 crores presented/collected through them. The case has been handed over to CBI who have registered a case for investigation. Shri Budharani was arrested by the U.P. Police and handed over to CBI. After completion of preliminary investigation into the matter, the bank has also placed under suspension four officials for dereliction of duty.

Recognition to RRB Officers' Association

4331. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks have duly recognised their respective Officers' Associations;

(b) whether such banks are regularly discussing directly with Officers' Associations or through their Apex Body i.e. Indian Banks' Association;

(c) whether the recognition of Regional Rural Bank Officers' Association is barred by the laws of the land;

(d) if not, the reasons for which the NABARD has asked the Rural Banks to wait for Government decision in this regard; and

(e) what is Government's decision and by when it is likely to be communicated to RRBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association has reported that recognition of officers' associations in the public sector banks is not a statutory requirement, as there is no law governing recognition of officers' associations/unions in the banking industry. Matters pertaining to pay scales and services conditions, which are uniform in nature, are generally discussed at the apex level by the Indian Banks' Associaiton with the officers' organisations. At the bank level only such of the matters which are germane to the bank are discussed with the representatives of officers associations having majority following in the respective banks.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Re-appraisal of reform

4332. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "BJP urges mid-term re-appraisal of reforms" that appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 24th February, 1995;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish a white paper on the overall effects of economic reforms in the country, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) As per the news item captioned "BJP urges mid-term re-appraisal of reforms" published in 'Hindustan Times' dated 24th February 1995, Bhartiya Janta Party has urged the Government to undertake the re-appraisal of economic reforms programme in the light of the experiences of last three years. It has referred to a Report published by International Labour Organisation indicating that liberalisation was harming Indian agriculture. It has also referred to that Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry stating the industrial growth during 1991—94 was the most dismall for any three year period since independence.